

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

DECEMBER 29, 1820.

MR. ROBERTS, from the Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Janney, submitted the following

REPORT:

The petitioner's claim is for the value of certain buildings and the contents thereof, estimated by him at \$7,655 75, destroyed by the enemy in the late war, at a place called Bowlers, on the Rappahannock river. On the 4th of December, 1814, the petitioner was stationed at the before mentioned place, with his company of militia, in pursuance of an order of Lieutenant Colonel Ritchie, issued a few days before. In descending the river, the enemy landed and obliged him to retire, and immediately set fire to the petitioner's property. In the time the militia were stationed at Bowlers, some of the buildings were occupied by them. On this ground, the petitioner brought his case before the Commissioner of Claims, and three several commissions appear to have been issued to take evidence. This evidence, in the opinion of the committee, is insufficient to prove the property was either in proper military occupancy, or, that the destruction proceeded from any such opinion being held by the enemy. It rather appears to have been destroyed in conformity with the order, given previously to the time of this occurrence, by the commander of the enemy's naval forces, to devastate all assailable places. This claim is of a similar character with that of Phineas Meigs, of Connecticut; Richard Frisby, of Maryland, and sundry others which have been decided by the Senate to be not allowable. The following resolution is submitted:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

